

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

October 22, 2007

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Westford, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, held at the Abbot School on Monday, October 22, 2007, called to commence at 7:30 pm, the following business was transacted:

Election officers, using voting lists, acted as tellers at the doors. Two hundred ten voters were in attendance as the meeting began.

Ellen Harde, Town Moderator, declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:44 pm.

Article 1: FY2008 Budget Adjustments

It was VOTED that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$452,800 (FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS) in order to supplement the following Fiscal Year 2008 Operating Budgets:

Dept. 630 Recreation, Expense	\$ 12,800.00
Dept. 910 Employee Benefits & Misc.	\$440,000.00

And further that the Town appropriate by transfer from Water Enterprise Free Cash the sum of \$157,400.00 (ONE HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS) in order to supplement the following Fiscal Year 2008 Operating Budget:

Department 600 Water Enterprise Fund, Capital	\$157,400.00
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It was VOTED unanimously to dismiss the following three articles:

- **Article 2: FY08 Budget Transfers**
- **Article 3: FY2008 Compensation Plan Amendment for Non-union Employees**
- **Article 13: Acceptance of MGL Ch. 40R**

Article 4: FY 2008 Community Preservation Funds Appropriations

It was VOTED that the Town, pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws c. 44B, in accordance with the recommendations of the Westford Community Preservation Committee, appropriate by transfer from Community Preservation Funds the sum of \$245,000 (TWO HUNDRED FORTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS) as follows:

\$235,000	For the final payment of principal on the Bond Anticipation Note for the East Boston Camps property	<i>Community Preservation Committee</i>
	From Undesignated Fund Balance	
\$10,000	For the final payment of principal on the Bond Anticipation Note for the East Boston Camps property	<i>Community Preservation Committee</i>
	From Westford Land Preservation Foundation-East Boston Camps Gift Account	

It was voted unanimously to allow Town employees and consultants who are not residents to address this meeting.

Article 5: Capital Requests

It was VOTED unanimously that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of SIXTY SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED (\$66,700.00) DOLLARS to provide for the capital requests of the following Town departments in the following amounts:

Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries for improvements to the Town	\$ 24,200
Farm Road property including carpeting, boilers, raising pipes, repairs to chimneys, fire radio box and other related costs	

Library for replacement of three boilers and other related costs	\$42,500
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And further that the Town appropriate by transfer from Ambulance Enterprise Free Cash the sum of \$29,816.00 (TWENTY NINE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTEEN DOLLARS) for the purchase of a Vehicle, accessories and other related costs;

And further that the Town appropriate by transfer from Water Enterprise Free Cash the sum of \$35,000.00 (THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS) for the design of a replacement water main at Byrne Avenue and other related costs.

Article 6: Hillside Avenue Drainage / By Petition

A MOTION was made and seconded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 (TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) for installing a pipe from the drywell on Hillside Avenue to North Main Street catch basin.

The motion FAILED for lack of majority.

Article 7: Street Betterments on Pond Road

It was VOTED that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 (TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) for the layout and improvement of Pond Road as a town public way; and, further, to authorize the Selectmen, pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws c 80, to assess betterments against the owners of abutting estates for said improvements.

It was then VOTED to take Articles 16 and 17 out of order.

Article 16: Accept Starr Circe as Town Road and Appropriation for Paving Starr Circle / Board of Selectmen

It was VOTED by a two-thirds declared majority that the Town, pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws c. 82, § 21, accept Starr Circle (approximately 940 feet) as a town public way as shown by the report and plan, dated and titled duly filed with the Town Clerk; and, further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 (FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS) for the completion of the way; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept the deed to the Town of the said way

Article 17: Reduce Amount Raised by Taxes in FY08

It was VOTED that the Town transfer the following available funds to reduce the net amount to be raised by taxes for Fiscal Year 2008:

\$ 53,988.43	From Fund Balance Designated for Debt Service
\$ 2,200.00	From Fund Balance Designated for Debt Exclusion Reduction
\$3,248,358.59	From Free Cash

and, further, that the Assessors be and hereby are directed to reduce the net amount to be raised by taxes for Fiscal Year 2008 accordingly.

It was then VOTED to take Article 11 out of order.

Article 11: Transfer Care, Custody and Control of East Boston Camp Property to Conservation Commission

It was VOTED by a two-thirds declared majority that the Town, pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws c. 40, §15A, approve the transfer, from the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation Commission of the care, custody and control of the property known as East Boston Camps, being shown as Parcel 37 on Westford Assessors Map Number 31 and Parcel 32-4 on Westford Assessors Map Number 35; and, further;

That the Selectmen be and hereby are authorized to file special legislation with the General Court, pursuant to Article 97, authorizing the transfer, from the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation Commission, of the care, custody and control of the property known as East Boston Camps shown on Parcel 37 on Westford Assessors Map Number 31 and Parcel 32-4 on Westford Assessors Map Number 35. The General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Selectmen approve amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court. The Selectmen are hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition.

A MOTION was made and seconded to add the words “and Parks and Recreation Commission” following “Conservation Commission” in the second line of the first paragraph. The motion FAILED for lack of majority.

A secret ballot vote was called for but fell 11 voters short of the 20 needed to carry it through.

At 9:00pm it was voted to adjourn this Special Town Meeting of 7:30pm until the completion of the Special Town Meeting scheduled to begin at 9:00pm.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING BY PETITION

October 22, 2007, 9:00pm

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Westford, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, held at the Abbot School on Monday, October 22, 2007, called to commence at 9:00 pm, the following business was transacted:

Article 1: East Boston Camps

It was VOTED that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or Conservation Commission to enter into a lease, license or contract relative to a portion of the East Boston Camps property, said lease, license or contract to be awarded pursuant to a Request for Proposals for an entity to use the property designated for the operation of an overnight camp or combination overnight and day camp for the summer of 2008 and for up to five summers thereafter. Said lease, license or contract shall be on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deem in the best interest of the Town and may include the following terms and conditions:

1. The only buildings said camp shall use are those on the north side of Burge's Pond (boy's camp, day camp and associated beach front), so designated on the map entitled "East Boston Camps" created by Westford's GIS Department dated June 2005 ("Property").
2. Campers shall carry on their activities primarily in the camp area corresponding to the buildings designated above.
3. Said camp shall be limited to eight weeks in July and August, allow no more than 200 campers registered for each week of operation and provide a plan for at least 20% of all overnight campers to be recruited from children of low and moderate income from Boston, Chelsea and/or other inner city areas.
4. In addition, the successful bidder shall provide a plan for encouraging registration of children from the Town of Westford and shall be covered by comprehensive insurance of a type and amount which is, at minimum, equivalent to what was required for the camp operation conducted on this property in the summer of 2007.
5. The successful bidder shall provide the Town with proof of all certifications, health, safety and otherwise, required to confirm the safety and legality of the camp operation.
6. The successful bidder will be wholly responsible for the financial expenses associated with the camp in addition to care and maintenance of the buildings in the camp area for the summer and shall be required to comply with existing restrictions on the premises including but not limited to the recorded Conservation Restriction.
7. The successful bidder shall pay their proportionate share of the East Boston Camps caretaker's annual salary for said use.
8. The final RFP will be issued by November 5, 2007 with responses due back to the Town by December 15, 2007 and any bid awarded within one week thereafter.

All other requirements of the Uniform Procurement Act and other relevant laws and regulations shall be complied with.

A MOTION was made and seconded to add the words, “Successful bidder will be required to provide a program which specifically focuses on conservation, ecology and environmental education, in concert with the Town's primary purpose in purchasing the property” following the sentence ending with “up to five summers.” The motion FAILED for lack of majority.

A MOTION was made and seconded to delete the words “and for up to five summers thereafter.” The motion FAILED for lack of majority.

Having no further business to conduct under the warrant for the petitioned special town meeting, the meeting ADJOURNED at 9:45 pm and returned to the earlier meeting.

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EARLIER SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, CONTINUED

Article 8: Petition a Special Act of the Legislature – Retired Police Officer to Work Detail

It was VOTED that the Selectmen be and hereby are authorized to file special legislation with the General Court to allow the Town Manager to appoint retired Westford police officers as special police officers in the Town of Westford, said special police officers to be subject to the rules, regulations and policies promulgated by the Town Manager and the Chief of Police.

A quorum count was then called for by a voter and there were found to be 185 voters, 15 voters shy of the 200 voter quorum required to continue with town meeting business.

At 9:58 pm it was voted to adjourn to Tuesday, October 23rd at 7:00 pm.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

October 23, 2007

At 7:23 pm on Tuesday, October 23rd, there were 145 voters present, which did not achieve the quorum requirement of 200 voters. The remaining Articles were therefore not acted upon.

It was VOTED to dissolve the Special Town Meeting.

A true copy attest,

Kaari Mai Tari
Town Clerk